



**County Borough of Reading.**

# **Annual Report**

OF THE

# **Medical Officer of Health**

AND

# **School Medical Officer**

FOR THE YEAR

## **1945**

By

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READING :

**GREENSLADE & Co. (READING LTD.), KINGS BRIDGE.**



COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1945.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
OLD COLLEGE BUILDINGS,  
ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCHYARD,  
READING,

*July, 1946.*

**TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit an annual report which in accordance with the instruction of the Ministry of Health, is again abridged and factual.

**Statistical Summary.**

Area of borough (in acres)	...	...	...	...	9,106
Population (estimated mid-year—Registrar-General)					108,830
Registered births—Total	...	...	...	...	2,066
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1,777
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	289
Birth rate (per 1,000 of the population)				...	18.8
Still-births	...	...	...	...	58
Infant deaths (under one year) :—					
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	78
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	20
Total	...	...	...	...	98
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) :—					
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	43.9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	69.2
Total	...	...	...	...	47.4
Registered deaths (all causes)	...	...	...	...	1,400
Crude death rate (per 1,000 of the population)				...	12.8
Number of persons married	...	...	...	...	1,185
Marriage Rate (per 1,000 population)	...	...	...	...	10.9
Tuberculosis death rate (per 1,000 of the population) :—					
Pulmonary only	...	...	...	...	0.55
Non-pulmonary only	...	...	...	...	0.11
All forms	...	...	...	...	0.66
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth :—					
From sepsis	...	...	...	...	1
From other causes	...	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	...	4
Maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	...	...	...	...	1.94
Cancer death rate (per 1,000 of the population)	...	...	...	...	1.93



CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH, ALLOCATED TO MUNICIPAL WARDS.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65 & up ward	Abbey.	Battle.	Castle.	Caversham.	Church.	East.	Katesgrove.	Minster.	Redlands.	Tilhurst.	Victoria.	West.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	5	4	16	5	3	3	3	10	—	5
Diphtheria	60	—	—	—	40	14	6	1	2	1	2	1	—	1	—	1	2	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	—	4	2	5	1	5	—	1	2	1	1	—	1	—	1	2	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	—	—	—	2	4	6	—	1	1	1	4	2	2	1	—	1	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	14	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	210	1	—	1	12	82	114	6	14	7	35	34	25	14	8	6	30	13	18
Cancer (all forms)	9	—	—	—	3	3	6	—	1	1	1	2	17	15	1	12	20	5	3
Diabetes	161	—	—	—	38	78	122	—	20	12	20	16	35	30	21	15	46	20	15
Cerebral Haemorrhage	334	—	—	1	9	11	246	5	5	24	53	40	25	17	9	30	12	15	25
Heart Disease	159	—	—	1	1	11	146	2	5	3	8	23	7	2	1	5	6	2	10
Other circulatory Diseases	47	2	—	—	6	6	38	1	5	5	9	6	11	6	4	—	6	3	5
Bronchitis	69	9	3	1	18	3	32	3	10	4	6	6	4	1	2	2	1	1	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	9	—	—	—	4	5	4	—	—	1	1	—	4	1	1	1	1	—	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	16	—	—	—	11	3	5	1	1	—	3	7	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	18	17	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	4	2	4	1	—	—	1	1	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	6	—	—	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Appendicitis	25	1	1	—	3	8	12	1	—	1	3	2	5	3	1	3	2	2	2
Other Digestive Diseases	27	—	—	—	3	9	14	1	5	2	2	2	—	4	2	1	3	2	3
Nephritis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Sepsis	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	24	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	4	—	4	1	—	3	1	2
Premature Birth	35	29	1	2	3	—	—	1	2	1	7	8	2	2	2	—	7	1	1
Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc.	12	—	3	—	4	6	2	3	1	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	2	—	3
Suicide	12	—	1	—	4	2	2	—	2	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	3	—	1
Road Accidents	34	4	3	1	5	7	14	4	4	3	5	2	5	3	2	2	3	—	—
Other Violent Causes	84	5	—	2	8	17	52	4	14	6	9	16	10	5	3	7	8	2	—
All Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	1,400	98	17	20	115	324	826	34	116	87	183	203	158	117	74	90	170	70	98

The population shows a further small decline from that estimated for 1944, but remains some 8,000 in excess of the pre-war figure.

The birth rate is slightly lower than the high rate for 1944.

The crude death rate is high, but with no comparability factor yet available any particular significance cannot be deduced. The considerable rise in the cancer death rate over previous years probably reflects the temporary war-time removal from the population of large numbers of its younger members.

The tuberculosis death rate has risen, as have the infant and maternal mortality rates.

It is disappointing but perhaps not unexpected that in the sixth year of "total" war, these vital statistics show a slight deterioration from former record figures.

## **PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

### **Measles.**

An epidemic prevailed during the Spring and early Summer months. The number of cases was roughly the same as in previous measles epidemic years, but only two deaths were attributed to this infection.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

There was a marked decline from the high total of 1944. No death was recorded.

### **Diphtheria.**

The number of cases and deaths were much reduced.

### **Enteric Fever.**

Two cases were notified of paratyphoid fever. The first was detected in hospital after admission with a different diagnosis. Immediate enquiry at the place of residence showed no sanitary defects, but a relative of the patient, living in the house, was reported as ill with an "influenzal" complaint. On admission to hospital for investigation, she was found to be suffering also from paratyphoid fever. Examination of all the other members of the household disclosed no further cases, or carriers. A relative from H.M. Forces had been on leave from Germany up to a date within the possible incubation period of the first case. I was, however, unsuccessful in getting any information from his Unit, as he was apparently posted to the Far East shortly after his return.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1945. CLASSIFIED IN AGES AND LOCALITIES.

Notifiable diseases.	Number of cases notified								Total cases notified in each municipal ward.											Notified cases removed to isolation hospital.	Total deaths in isolation hospital.				
	At ages—Years.								Abbey	Battle	Castle	Caversham	Church	East	Katesgrove	Minster	Redlands	Tilehurst	Victoria			West			
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.																	
Small Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	131	52	205	280	116	64	28	46	256	41	113	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera ..	1357	35	607	703	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus ..	64	2	37	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	15	7	3	—	—	12	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague ..	282	—	32	199	25	23	3	—	6	16	10	70	53	33	14	5	20	32	12	11	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Membranous Group ..	53	2	7	34	7	1	2	—	1	3	3	4	8	5	11	—	4	8	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	24	—	—	—	1	10	9	—	—	1	—	5	6	3	3	—	1	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
Enteric (Typhoid) Fever ..	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	20	—	—	—	9	11	—	—	—	2	1	3	3	2	1	—	3	2	3	5	14	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	119	—	1	6	35	51	22	4	4	6	6	10	26	11	6	5	2	24	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ..	16	—	3	8	1	4	—	—	—	2	2	2	2	6	1	3	1	4	1	4	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	32	—	2	3	2	8	12	5	—	1	3	2	3	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	8	1	—	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polioencephalitis ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	1987	43	690	983	96	112	50	13	37	165	77	319	396	186	112	42	83	343	83	144	*408	—	—	—	18

\*This total includes 54 " other diseases " not included in the table.



**Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.****Public Health Aircraft Regulations, 1938.**

Contacts of cases of typhus fever were reported as entering the country and proceeding to Reading. They were kept under observation for the requisite incubation periods.

**PARK ISOLATION HOSPITAL.**

The total number of patients admitted to Park hospital during the year was 408 which, together with 61 patients remaining in the hospital on the 1st January, 1945, made a total of 469 patients treated there during the year. Details of the types of cases admitted are as follows :—

Disease	Remaining in hospital 1 Jan, 1945	Since admitted	Since discharged	Died in hospital	Remaining in hospital 31 Dec., 1945
Scarlet Fever ...	26	160	183	—	3
Diphtheria ...	14	53	56	2	9
Tuberculosis ...	21	121	103	15	24
Other Diseases ...	—	74	73	1	—
Totals ...	61	408	415	18	36

**Diphtheria Immunisation.**

During the year ended December 31st, 1945, the number of children immunised against diphtheria was as follows :—

0 to 4 years ...	1,130
5 years to 15 years ...	1,005

All ages 2,135

Ministry of Health Circular No. 193/45, issued to local authorities on the 14th November, 1945, requires a more detailed annual return regarding the number of children immunised and lays down that all future returns are to be based on the year of birth of the child. To arrive at these figures, upwards of 17,000 immunisation cards have had to be resorted and tabulated and the final figures are given below :—

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1945.

Age at 31/12/45	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 15
Born 1945	—	702	834	840	935	5,819	6,563
Total—					...	15,693	
Estimated percentage of children immunised—							
	Under 5 ...			38.25			
	Over 5 ...			70.77			



In an accompanying circular, No. 194/45, issued to local authorities on the same date, the Minister of Health points out the urgent need for a more uniform and intensified scheme to secure and maintain, in particular, the immunisation of as many young children as possible about the time when they reach one year of age or, failing this, at least before school age is reached. This responsibility has been placed upon Welfare Authorities and is to come into effect as from the 1st January, 1946. The services of the Health Visitors are to be utilised to the fullest extent to ensure that the most complete and satisfactory results are obtained.

### DISINFECTION.

All the work of disinfection rendered necessary by the prevalence of infectious disease, has been carried out during the year. The following summary shows the nature and extent of the work involved.

	Houses	Number of		
		Separate Rooms	Beds and Mattresses	Miscellaneous Articles
Reading District ... ..	501	493	167	1,784
Adjoining Districts ... ..	64	—	159	862
Miscellaneous Institutions	—	33	146	2,550
Totals	565	526	472	5,196

### DISINFESTATION.

(See note included in the section of the report dealing with Housing on page 21).

### TUBERCULOSIS.

The subjoined table shows the number of notifications and deaths due to tuberculosis, annually, since 1928.

Year	No. of cases notified		No. of Deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population	
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary
1928-37 Average	117	22	76	15	0.76	0.15
1938	91	31	58	6	0.58	0.05
1939	95	40	52	12	0.50	0.10
1940	117	30	74	18	0.66	0.16
1941	137	50	68	16	0.54	0.13
1942	186	40	60	10	0.51	0.08
1943	185	30	57	13	0.51	0.11
1944	135	29	55	14	0.49	0.13
1945	119	16	60	12	0.55	0.11

The following table shows the number of cases undergoing institutional treatment at the end of the year, other than in Park hospital :—

Patients in Sanatoria	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Totals
Ventnor .. .. .	2	1	—	—	3
London Chest Hospital ..	1	1	—	—	2
Grosvenor .. .. .	5	9	—	—	14
Papworth .. .. .	2	—	—	—	2
Nayland .. .. .	—	1	—	—	1
Heath End .. .. .	—	—	3	—	3
Bullford Manor .. .. .	—	—	1	—	1
Wingfield Hospital .. ..	—	—	2	—	2
Cold Ash Hospital .. ..	—	—	1	—	1
Victoria Home, Windsor ..	—	—	3	2	5
Benenden .. .. .	1	—	—	—	1
Milford .. .. .	—	1	—	—	1
	11	13	10	2	36

### Tuberculosis Dispensary.

The following report, compiled by Doctor W. H. Tattersall, the acting Tuberculosis Officer, shows the nature and extent of the work carried out during the year :—

“ During the year 723 new cases have been dealt with at the dispensary, and 19 per cent of these were notified as suffering from one form or other of tuberculosis. At the end of the year there were 679 cases on the dispensary register, 5,823 attendances had been made by patients, and 1,999 home visits paid by the two Health Visitors during the year.

One hundred and eighty-four persons have been examined as contacts of the 71 cases who were infectious at the time of diagnosis, a ratio of more than 2.1. The routine examination of contacts has led to the discovery of 11 cases, i.e. 8 per cent of the number notified.

Although the number of cases discovered annually at present shows no great variation, the greatly increased number of X-ray examinations made, as compared with the years before the war, together with the extensive use of mass radiography in the services, suggest that the diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis is probably being made in many cases at an earlier and more treatable stage of the disease. This is reflected in the fact that during the year more than 60 patients have received some form of collapse therapy.

Sixty-seven patients have been admitted to various sanatoria for treatment and 90 cases have been treated in the pavilion of 26 beds at Park hospital. These figures indicate a decrease of 13 per cent on the 1938 admissions for residential treatment. The reason for this decrease in the number of patients



receiving residential treatment is threefold: the shortage of beds which has prevailed throughout the war, the priority given throughout the country to repatriated prisoners of war requiring treatment, and the grave shortage of nursing and domestic staff which has continued since the end of hostilities. Although this shortage of institutional accommodation is nation-wide, Reading has been particularly unfortunate since the Grosvenor Sanatorium has been unable to accept routine admissions since June. This has led to the utmost development of treatment at Park Hospital on sanatorium lines, and the undertaking of modern surgical methods there on a more extensive scale than hitherto. The co-operation of the nursing staff to meet this emergency has been gratifying.

A notable development in the after-care of patients is the co-operation with the Ministry of Labour in the operation of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act.

In addition to the established functions of the dispensary, the checking of the nursing staffs of Park hospital and the Day-Nurseries has become routine.

It will not be possible for some years, to see whether the restricted facilities for institutional treatment, and unavoidable overcrowding in a number of consumptive households, has an adverse effect in the control of the disease."

### **Tuberculosis Dispensary After-care Association.**

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Honorary Secretary :—

*Work of Relief Sub-Committee.* During the year the sub-committee have dealt with 66 cases. Assistance given to 52 patients by grants for extra nourishment; 4 provided with clothing; 2 dental treatment; 1 for spectacles; 7 railway fares.

The sub-committee also deal with applications for allowances from patients undergoing approved treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis under the Ministry of Health scheme, submitted by Mr. C. E. House who acts as welfare officer attached to the tuberculosis dispensary.

Cases have been considered as follows :—

*Maintenance.* New applications, 56; reports for revisions, renewals and alterations of circumstances, 181; winter fuel allowances, 9.

*Discretionary Grants.* New applications, 5; revisions and renewals, 18.

*Special Payments.* New applications, 13; revisions and renewals, 16.

The welfare officer has paid 645 visits in the course of his duties to investigate the statements made by patients when



applying for allowances under the scheme, and for routine revision of financial circumstances.

The chairman of the Relief Sub-Committee (Alderman T. S. Smart) has attended each week to authorise payments being made in the intervals between meetings of the sub-committee.

*Christmas Gifts.* The usual gifts in kind were made to patients named by recommendation of the Tuberculosis Visitors, and a grant of £10 was spent by the Matron at Park hospital, Miss A. Weir, on personal gifts and ward decorations for patients in the tuberculosis pavilions.

Books and magazines have been received at the hospital in response to an appeal through the local press by Alderman T. S. Smart, for the benefit of those patients in the tuberculosis wards who are able to sit up and read and do light work.

*Nursing Appliances for bed-ridden tuberculous patients.* By reason of the lengthy periods such appliances are in use, the Superintendent of the Queen Victoria Institute for District Nursing in Reading, Miss Carden, asked the committee to make special provision for those patients. The request was approved, and it was resolved that a sum of £25 may be spent for this purpose.

### SCABIES.

The treatment of scabies at first-aid posts was, with the exception of one depot, discontinued in December, 1944. Arrangements were made to continue these treatments at specially arranged clinics at Whitley clinic and Battle hospital. The following table shows the number of patients dealt with during the year :—

	Women and Children	Men and Boys
Whitley Clinic .. .. .	92	—
Battle Hospital .. .. .	350	149
Silver Street First-Aid Post until 5/5/45 .. .. .	72	13
	514	162

### VACCINATION.

The number of children successfully vaccinated during the year was 1,005 or 34 per cent of all births occurring in the borough during the year 1944, a distinct improvement on the results obtained in previous years.

Details as follows :—

Districts.	Number of births Registered.	Number of children successfully vaccinated.	Insusceptible of vaccination.	Had Small Pox.	Died un-vaccinated.	Exemption from vaccination by Statutory Declaration of "Conscientious Objection."	Postponement by Medical Certificate.	Removed to other districts.	Removed to places unknown.	Number of births remaining (unaccounted for).	
										No.	Rate per cent of total births
St. Mary's	1231	350	3	—	37	607	2	33	67	132	10.7
St. Giles'	905	265	3	—	35	406	6	78	15	97	10.7
Caversham	804	390	1	—	18	200	3	148	13	31	3.8
Whole Borough	2940	1005	7	—	90	1213	11	259	95	260	8.8

### VENEREAL DISEASES.

From the returns of the Medical Officer in charge of the clinic at the Royal Berkshire hospital, the following figures have been extracted of the number of Reading residents dealt with for the first time during the years denoted.

	1945	1944	1943	1938
Syphillis	38	37	41	20
Gonorrhoea	66	72	107	97
Non-Venereal	205	209	179	28

*Venereal Diseases Regulations, 33/B.* The Council resolved that single notifications should be followed up by the Chief Health Visitor and the following record of her work is given.

#### Venereal Diseases Regulations, 33/B.

		M.	F.
(1)	(a) Total number of contacts in respect of whom Form I was received ... ..	—	49
	(b) Number in (a) transferred from other areas	—	—
(2)	Number of cases in (1) in which attempts were made during the current period outside the scope of the Regulation to persuade the contact to be examined before the latter had been named on a second Form 1 :—		
	Contacts found ... ..	—	15
	„ examined or already under treatment ... ..	—	10
(3)	(a) Number of those in (1) in respect of whom two or more Forms 1 were received ...		5
	(b) Number included in (3) (a) in respect of whom the first Form 1 was previously reported under (1) ... ..	—	5

(c)	Number included in (3) (a) transferred from other areas	...	...	...	...	—	—
(4)	Number of those in (3) (a) who were :—						
(a)	found	...	...	...	...	—	4
(b)	examined after persuasion or already under treatment	...	...	...	...	—	4
(c)	served with Form 2	...	...	...	...	—	—
(d)	examined after service of Form 2	...	...	...	...	—	—
(e)	prosecuted for failure :—						
	(I) to attend for, and submit to, medical examination	...	...	...	...	—	—
	(II) to submit to and continue treatment	...	...	...	...	—	—
(f)	transferred to other areas	...	...	...	...	—	—

### BATTLE HOSPITAL.

The following is a summary of the work carried out at Battle hospital during the year, supplied by the medical superintendent, Dr. D. C. Thomas :—

Number of patients admitted	...	...	3,007
Number of patients discharged	...	...	2,698
Number of deaths	...	...	422
Number of operations carried out	...	...	582
Number of x-ray examinations	...	...	3,697
Number of maternity patients admitted	...	...	323
<i>Out-patients department—</i>			
New patients attending	...	...	584
Total treatments	...	...	1,409
<i>Gynaecological out-patients—</i>			
New patients attending	...	...	173
Total treatments	...	...	700
<i>Massage Department—</i>			
New patients attending	...	...	210
Total treatments	...	...	3,696
<i>Rehabilitation—</i>			
New patients attending	...	...	232
Total treatments	...	...	464

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

*Staff.* The shortage of staff continues to curtail much of the work of this section of the department. Mr. James Dodd, Chief Sanitary Inspector for thirty-two years, retired from the service of the Corporation in August. One district sanitary inspector was released from military service in October and another in November.

The following is a report of the sanitary circumstances of the borough, prepared by Mr. W. E. Bond, the acting Chief Sanitary Inspector :—



“ During the year the sanitary inspectors made 3,824 inspections and visits for the investigation of complaints under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

Many of the complaints were made to the department only after repeated requests had been made to the persons causing or permitting the nuisance or to the owner or agent, had been ignored.

During the year 1,129 complaints were received as compared with 966 the previous year.

An analysis of the nature of the complaints received is given in the table below :—

*Analysis of Complaints—*

Dirty, damp or defective houses	...	332
Defective roofs, gutters and stack pipes		119
Defective sanitary accommodation		155
Dirty tenants	... ..	45
Defective yards and courts	...	13
Accumulation of refuse	... ..	30
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance		20
Miscellaneous complaints	... ..	60
Complaints not justified	... ..	26
Overcrowded houses	... ..	28
Smoke nuisances	... ..	5
Drains choked or defective	...	296

Sixty-three notices were served during the year for the abatement of nuisances, all of which were complied with. No statutory notices were served and no proceedings instituted.

*House Drains.* During the year 664 inspections and visits were paid to defective or choked house drains, all of which were cleared, repaired or relaid as found necessary.

*Common Lodging Houses.* There are three common lodging houses in the borough which, though leaving much to be desired in structure and arrangement, are fairly well kept. The provisions of the Public Health Act, enabling the local authority to refuse registration, will be taken advantage of in the case of the less suitable houses when the opportunity arises.

One hundred and seventeen visits were paid during the year.

There were no serious infringements of the bye-laws.

It was noticed that a great difficulty experienced by the lodging houses keepers, is the inability to obtain replacement of bedding and other equipment.

*Factories Act, 1937.* The Local Authority enforce the provisions of Part 1, Sections 1-7 of the Factories Act, their officer having the same power as the factory inspector.

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecution.
Factories .. .. . Powers and Non-powers ..	85	15	—

Homework.

Nature :—Wearing apparel (Tailoring, Knitting, Hosiery, etc.)				
Lists received twice a year from employers .. .. .				5
Number of outworkers Contractors .. .. .				4
Workmen .. .. .				4
Lists received once a year .. .. .				—
Number of outworkers Contractors .. .. .				—
Workmen .. .. .				—
Outwork in unwholesome premises .. .. .				—
Notices served .. .. .				—
Outwork in infected premises .. .. .				—

*Canal Boats.* Routine visits were paid to the wharves on the Thames and Kennet. No case was observed where a barge was used as a dwelling.

*Caravans.* There are 27 caravans stationed in the borough and all are licensed to be used as dwellings. All of them have suitable sanitary accommodation and sufficient water supply. One hundred and sixty-nine visits were paid to these vans during the year and no serious complaints were received.

Numerous applications have been received during the year for permission to station dwelling vans in the borough, but every effort is made to discourage this. The reason for these applications is undoubtedly the absence of normal accommodation.

*Offensive Trades.* The number of offensive and associated trades carried on in the borough is 6 :—

- 1 blood boiling
- 1 feet boiling
- 1 bone boiling
- 2 tripe dressing
- 1 gut scraping

Routine visits were made to these trades during the year. All of them are properly conducted and the premises kept in a satisfactory condition. There have been no complaints during the year.

*Knacker's Yard.* There is one knacker's yard situated in an outlying part of the borough. Fifty-one visits were paid to these premises, which are kept clean and free from nuisance.

*Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919. Infestation Order, 1943.* A survey of the borough was completed in January of this year. During the survey 17,174 visits were paid to 15,674 premises. Of these 671 were found to be infested with rats and 141 with mice. Thirty-six other premises were found already serviced by private firms. Under the provisions of the principal Act and the Disinfestation Order of 1943, the Council instituted a scale of charges for the services of the rodent operators.

A summary of the work done during the year is contained in the following table :—

	Block Control.	Individual Premises.	Contracts.	Total.
Premises treated ..	554	63	63	680
Visits paid ..	2,956	315	945	4,216
Poison baits laid ..	5,213	584	830	6,627
Rats picked up ..	1,194	179	157	1,530
Estimated kill				
Ministry formula	7,248	786	1,325	9,359
Premises cleared ..	436	54	49	539
Premises re-infested	49	9	14 contracts operative	72
Re-infestation cleared	20	5	—	25
Premises treated and found clear ..	69	—	—	69
Re-inspection of treated premises ..	2,720	—	—	2,720

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1) **Inspection of dairies and cowsheds.** Ninety-one routine visits of inspection were made to dairies and cowsheds during the year. All notices to cleanse were complied with.

(2) **Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-42.**  
Under these regulations, the local authority is the licensing



authority. The number and nature of the licences issued during the year are set out in the following table :—

Producers licences .. ..	" Tuberculin Tested "	3
Producers licence .. ..	" Tuberculin Tested " (Certified)	1
Producers licences .. ..	" Accredited " .. ..	5
Producers licences .. ..	" Pasteurised " .. ..	5
Dealers licences .. ..	" Tuberculin Tested "	14
Dealers licence .. ..	" Tuberculin Tested " (Certified)	1
Dealers licence .. ..	" Tuberculin Tested "	
	(Pasteurised) .. ..	1
Dealers licences .. ..	" Pasteurised " .. ..	3
Supplementary licence .. .	" Tuberculin Tested " .. ..	1
Supplementary licence ..	" Accredited " .. ..	1

Two hundred and sixty-four visits were made to the farms and dairies where designated milk was produced or treated. Two hundred and fourteen samples were taken during the year.

**Tuberculous Milk.** Nineteen samples were taken with the results as set out below :—

Number of samples taken	Number in which tubercle bacilli present	Rate per cent. found tuberculous
19	Nil	Nil

**School Milk Supplies.** The grade of milk supplied to schools and the quantity—

Grade supplied	Quantity in gallons daily
Pasteurised	568 (approx.)

**Food.** During the year 599 visits were paid to various shops and food stores in the borough.

Ninety-one thousand four hundred and thirty-one tins of food and 18,124 lbs. of other foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption, and where possible, this was salvaged for animal feeding, the remainder being destroyed.

**Meat Inspection.** There is no change in the Food Regulation and slaughtering is still under the control of the Ministry of Food.

The number of animals slaughtered and the number of carcasses and part carcasses condemned is set out below :—

	Bovine.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number slaughtered ..	5,863	5,489	8,052	16,811
<i>Number of Carcasses condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis—</i>				
Whole carcasses ..	46	24	8	7
Part carcasses .. ..	41	5	23	9
Heads and internal organs	539	18	177	31
<i>Number of carcasses condemned for Tuberculosis—</i>				
Whole carcasses ..	101	2	—	21
Part carcasses .. ..	81	—	—	—
Heads and internal organs	834	—	267	—

All the carcasses are examined by the meat inspectors before being passed for allocation to the borough and the surrounding districts.

**Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, 1938.** The number and description of samples submitted for examination by the public analyst are set out in the following table :—

Articles	Number of samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
New milk .. ..	272	246	26
Blancmange .. ..	1	1	—
Vinegar .. ..	1	—	1
Stead nip .. ..	1	1	—
Coffee essence .. ..	1	—	1
Sacramental wine .. ..	1	1	—
Dried milk powder .. ..	3	3	—
Ice cream powder .. ..	4	4	—
Gin .. ..	1	1	—
Canned Fish .. ..	1	1	—
Totals ..	286	258	28

*Prosecutions.* In three cases proceedings were instituted where milk was found not up to standard. In one case the defendant was dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act, and fined £1 5s. 6d., this being the Court costs. In the other two cases the defendants were found legally guilty but morally not guilty, and fined 20/- on each count without costs.

**Supervision of Food Premises.** During the latter part of the year it was possible to give more attention to places where food is prepared.

One hundred and thirty visits were paid to kitchens and restaurants. All notices relating to cleansing were complied with.

*Ice Cream Shops.* There are 166 premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream. During the year 20 applications were received and granted. These premises are kept under constant supervision.

*Bakehouses.* Eighty-four visits were paid to bakehouses during the year. Twenty-two notices to cleanse were complied with.

## HOUSING.

Due to the general shortage of labour and material, as well as the shortage of staff, progress in inspection of and repairs to houses of the working classes has been much slowed up.

### 1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .	369
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	2,104
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. .. .	314
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	314
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	6
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of para. 3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. .. .. .	283

### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, .. .. .	204
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### 3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

#### A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	12
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a)	By owners .. .. .	†8
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners .. ..	*6
	(c)	Undertaking not to let until made fit .. ..	—

\*Including 3 from 1944

† „ 1 „ 1944, 2 outstanding

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	15
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- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By owners .. .. . 15
- (b) By local authority in default of owners .. .. . —
- C. *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936* :—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. . 4
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. . —
- D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936* :—
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made .. .. . —
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. . —

#### Individual Demolitions :—

Number of individual demolition orders made .. .. .	—
Number of individual houses demolished .. .. .	—
—Number of houses closed .. .. .	—
Undertaking not to let—Section 11, Sub-Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. .. .	4
Number of houses made fit .. .. .	1
Number of Closing Orders (Part of Buildings) (Section 12) .. .. .	1

**Verminous Houses.** *Eradication of bed bugs.* There has been an increase this year in the number of complaints received and dealt with during the year. Observation and re-inspections show that the methods employed are successful in most cases.

No. of complaints received		No. of houses disinfested	No. of rooms disinfested	No. of repeat disinfestations
Council houses	113	78	194	6
Other houses	367	284	578	12
Totals	480	362	772	18

Number of inspections including disinfestations .....	766
Number of "following-up" inspections .....	31
Total	797

**House Refuse Collection and Disposal, Salvage Collection and Public Cleansing.** I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for the following information on the work of house refuse collection, etc., carried out during the year :—

(a) *Collection.* The collection of house refuse and trade refuse in the borough has changed during the war, due to the more intensified collection of salvage and the shortage of labour. Up to September, 1945, it was only possible to carry out a visit to each of the 31,389 premises once a week, this being an alternative collection of house refuse and salvage, but, since that date, it has

been found possible to increase the collections to once weekly for both house refuse and salvage.

The refuse has changed in character, owing to the extraction of everything salvageable.

During the year, 29 notices have been served upon owners of premises, to provide sanitary dustbins under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(b) *Disposal.* The disposal of house refuse within the borough is carried out by a system known as "controlled tipping." This is a method by which refuse is tipped direct from collection vehicles in layers not exceeding a consolidated thickness of 6-ft. and immediately sealed with soil or other non-combustible material.

(c) *Salvage.* During the year, wastepaper, bottles, rags, non-ferrous metals, bones and kitchen waste have been collected from all premises in the Borough. In addition, there are 1,134 street bins, into which householders put their kitchen waste.

All the salvage is taken to Manor Farm tip, where it is sorted and baled. Kitchen waste is taken to the concentrator plant, where it is sorted, all contraries removed, and then concentrated, after which the finished concentrate is sold to farmers, etc., for feeding pigs and chickens.

(d) *Street Cleansing.* The "beat" system of street cleansing by street orderlies continues to be the most satisfactory system of street sweeping in Reading. The collection of sweepings and litter is carried out by means of street orderly trucks, and in the out-lying districts, these trucks are taken to large street bins, provided at different points, which are cleared daily by means of a freighter and lorry. During the year it has been very difficult to carry out this work, owing to the shortage of labour.

(e) *Street Gully Cleansing.* All street gullies are emptied, and sealed with fresh water by mechanically operated vehicles.

(f) *Cesspool Emptying.* All cesspools are emptied, upon receipt of instructions, by a mechanical cesspool emptying vehicle, with a minimum of inconvenience and nuisance to householders.

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(**Nuisance from House Flies.** Complaints were received in petition form regarding the Manor Farm refuse tip. Although flies were noticed in increased numbers throughout the borough in general, the complaints of this special site were justified. In view of the rising incidence of infant deaths from gastro-enteritis, it was felt that every effort should be made to deal with this nuisance as a potential danger to health. The Borough Surveyor gave whole-hearted co-operation, in spite of great labour



difficulties. The collection of house refuse was made weekly instead of fortnightly. The food collection bins were treated with insecticide. Very thorough routine treatment of the refuse tip and salvage buildings was instituted. In the past, insecticides have proved useless to control house flies but, with the new chemicals allied to D.D.T., very good results have been obtained.)

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**Sewage Disposal.** The average daily flow of sewage treated at Manor farm sewage disposal works has been 3,745,780 gallons per day. The quantity estimated as being treated at Caversham sewage disposal works was 500,000 to 550,000 gallons per day.

In both cases, the flows treated are in excess of the designed capacity of the plants, and difficulty is being experienced at the Caversham works in producing a satisfactory effluent.

Labour shortage has been responsible for some of the inconvenience experienced at the works, especially with regard to sludge disposal, which had to be done as overtime.

The Manor farm works have continued to produce a satisfactory effluent, but the partial treatment activated sludge plant now requires considerable maintenance repairs, and on occasions some difficulty has been experienced in its operation.

Sludge digestion has been carried out successfully, but here again, some sludge has had to be disposed of in the old sludge lagoons, due to the fact that all the drying beds were filled and could not be emptied in time.

The chlorination plant is now ready for installation, and will be working during the summer months.

It is proposed to construct a new sludge drying bed at Caversham; this should assist in relieving the load on the filter beds.

The whole subject of drainage and sewage disposal is being given consideration.

**Water Supply.** I am indebted to the Engineer and Manager of the water department for the following information in regard to the water supply of the borough during the year:—

“The water supply of the area and of its several parts is very satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Regular examinations of the water supply are made as follows:—  
Monthly—full chemical and bacteriological analyses from Fobney pumping and filtration works (river water).

1. Raw river water.

2. After filtration.

3. After filtration and chlorination (bacteriological only).

Southcote pumping and filtration works (river water)—

1. Final water after filtration and chlorination.

Pangbourne pumping station (borehole water—chalk)—

1. After chlorination.



Bath road reservoir—

1. Reservoir outlet main.

Weekly—Partial bacteriological examination—

Fobney works—final treated water.

Southcote works—final treated water.

Pangbourne works—final treated water.

Full bacteriological examination—

Bath road reservoir outlet main.

The reports invariably state the final treated water and the water from the reservoir is “consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.”

All houses are supplied direct, excepting an odd standpipe or two in the area of supply.

The water is moderately hard in character and has no plumbo-solvent action.

New works completed during the year include the enlargement of the No. 1 borehole from 15-ins. to 6-ft. diameter at the Pangbourne works.

The total quantity of water supplied for all purposes during the year ended 31st December, 1945, was 1,685,310,000 gallons and the highest consumption occurred on 2nd July, 1945, when the quantity distributed was 5,240,000 gallons.”

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

### (a) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Ante-natal clinics have been held each week at Star Lane on Tuesday afternoon. Wednesday morning and Thursday morning, also each fortnight at Whitley on Monday afternoon.

Ante-natal clinics are also conducted by the midwives of the Queen Victoria Institute and there were 1,514 attendances during the year. Patients requiring further examinations are referred to the council clinics.

The following is a record of all attendances—

		New cases.	Re-attendances.	Total.
Star Lane	...	790	2,771	3,561
Whitley	...	140	381	521
Queen Victoria Institute		123	1,391	1,514

A post-natal clinic has been held at Star Lane each Saturday morning, the number attending during the year being 179.

By arrangement with the Battle hospital, cases in which an X-ray picture is deemed advisable are referred to the X-ray department there and the films are delivered to Star Lane clinic the following day.

In cases of suspected venereal disease, specimens of blood for investigation are taken at Star Lane clinic and sent to the Royal Berkshire hospital pathological department.

## (b) DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY.

**Municipal Midwives.** There are five midwives employed directly by the local authority, each of whom is responsible for a certain district of the town. The following is a record of the work carried out by these midwives during the year :—

Number of midwifery cases attended	344
„ „ cases attended in the capacity of maternity nurses, i.e., where doctor is in attend- ance ... ..	8

In addition to the above, there are six midwives employed through the agency of the local branch of the Queen Victoria Nursing Institute. The number and description of the cases attended by them during the year was as follows :—

Midwifery cases	... ..	359
Maternity cases	... ..	95

**Gas-Air Analgesia.** Towards the end of the year, the Central Midwives Board amended their rules to the effect that all midwives entering Part 2 Training Schools after 1st July, 1946, will normally not be admitted to the Midwives Roll after passing their examination, unless they can submit evidence of proficiency in the administration of nitrous oxide and air analgesia. Midwives are permitted to administer gas-air analgesia to a mother provided some other person acceptable to the mother is present with her throughout the confinement. Midwives already in practice may administer gas-air analgesia only after obtaining a certificate of proficiency. A two-weeks course of whole-time instruction at an approved training school is required.

The maternity homes at Dellwood (which is a Part 2 Training School) and Caversham Grove are equipped with the necessary apparatus and their matrons have certificates of proficiency for gas-air analgesia. In addition, one of the Corporation's midwives holds the certificate, while three members of the Queen Victoria Institute are so qualified.

The Council at their meeting in December, 1945, approved that the principle of making available gas-air analgesia for all domiciliary confinements be adopted, as well as post-graduate training for those municipal midwives in need of it.

An arrangement has now been entered into with the London County Council for the municipal midwives to receive this training during the present year, as soon as the necessary facilities can be made available. Endeavours to obtain local courses were also being made.

## (c) INSTITUTIONAL MIDWIFERY

**Dellwood maternity home.** Dellwood maternity home may be said to have completed a satisfactory year's work. The number of patients admitted during the year was 358. The number of infants born there represents approximately 17 per cent.

of all births occurring in the borough during the same period, a rate which compares favourably with that of previous years.

The following further details in regard to the working of the home during the year may be of interest :—

Number of patients delivered by midwives	...	302
„ „ „ doctors	...	56
„ cases in which medical assistance was sought by the midwife in cases of emergency	...	100
„ cases of puerperal pyrexia	...	5
„ „ ophthalmia neonatorum	...	Nil
„ infants wholly breast-fed	...	304
„ maternal deaths	...	Nil
„ foetal deaths—		
(a) stillborn	...	2
(b) within 10 days of birth	...	3

**Battle Hospital.** The following is a record of the work carried out in the maternity ward of Battle hospital during the year :—

Number of patients delivered by midwives	...	300
„ „ „ doctors	...	17
„ „ admitted after delivery	...	6
„ cases of puerperal pyrexia	...	9
„ „ ophthalmia neonatorum	...	1
„ infants wholly breast-fed	...	250
„ maternal deaths	...	3
„ foetal deaths—		
(a) stillborn	...	22
(b) within 10 days of birth	...	5

**Caversham Grove (Emergency) Maternity Home for Evacuees.** This home, which caters especially for expectant mothers sent down to Reading by the London County Council in officially recognised parties, under the Government Evacuation scheme, completed another very satisfactory year of work, 411 such patients being confined there during the year. Before entering the home, these mothers are admitted in the first place to one or other of the ante-natal hostels established for the purpose at “Ashcroft,” Albert road, Caversham, and “Wychcotes,” St. Peter’s avenue, Caversham.

With the consent of the Ministry of Health, arrangements were made, as from the 1st January, 1945, for 6 beds at Caversham Grove to be reserved for Reading patients to act as an overflow for patients unable to be booked at Dellwood maternity home. This arrangement worked well and 91 patients were admitted, making a total of 502 patients dealt with during the year.



**Maternal Mortality.** During the year there occurred the deaths of four mothers from causes associated with child-birth, representing a maternal mortality rate of 1.9 per 1,000 births. All four deaths occurred in institutions. The certified causes of death were eclampsia (3), and prolonged labour, complicated by heart conditions (1).

**Infant Consultation Centres.** These centres, situated in all parts of the town, continued to be well attended. The total number of children who attended during the year were as follows :—

Under one year of age	...	...	...	1,331
Between the ages of one and five years	...			2,539

**Health Visiting Summary.** The scheme of health visiting has been maintained on the same lines as in previous years. Children are visited in their homes from soon after birth until they attain the age of five years. The following summary shows the total number of visits paid by the health visitors during the year :—

First visits after receipt of notification	...	1,974
Visits to children aged one to five years	...	14,655
Re-visits to children under one year	... ..	8,176
Special visits	... ..	420
Visits to expectant mothers	... ..	1,332
Special visits to cases of measles	... ..	1,233
Special visits to cases of ophthalmia	...	8
Special visits in regard to stillbirths	... ..	60
Special visits in regard to infant deaths	...	56
Special visits to nursed-out children	... ..	183
Special visits to cases of whooping cough	...	60
		<hr/> 28,157 <hr/>

**Illegitimate Children.** It will be noted that births of illegitimate children were 14 per cent. of the total for the year. The figure for 1944 was 10 per cent. The arrangements were continued to allow of the admission of unmarried mothers and their babies to suitable hostels, where this was found to be necessary.

**Infant Mortality.** This showed a marked rise during the year under review. The re-appearance of gastro-enteritis

INFANT MORTALITY, 1945.		(CAUSES OF DEATH under one year).											Allocated to Municipal Wards.										
Causes of Death.		Under 1 week	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1 month and under 3 mos.	3 months and under 6 mos.	6 months and under 9 mos.	9 months and under 12 mos.	Total under 1 year.	Abbey.	Battle.	Castle.	Caversham.	Church.	East.	Katesgrove.	Minster.	Redlands.	Tilhurst.	Victoria.	West.
Measles ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza ..	..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis, not Tuberculous ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Other Respiratory Diseases..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	1	—
Pneumonia ..	..	1	—	1	—	2	5	7	2	4	9	—	1	1	—	12	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	..	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	1	—	17	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc. ..	..	32	1	1	3	37	5	3	5	3	53	1	4	3	7	14	4	4	5	1	9	—	1
Other Causes ..	..	5	—	—	—	5	2	1	—	—	8	—	—	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals		39	2	2	3	46	17	15	10	10	98	1	8	7	11	31	9	8	5	1	14	2	1

20 of the deaths were of illegitimate children.

(diarrhoea of the new-born) was a disquieting feature, outbreaks being notified from two residential nurseries. This condition has apparently become more prevalent throughout the country as a whole. While it may be due to some new type of infection—perhaps a virus—emphasis has been laid on the increased need for advising mothers regarding the importance of particular care in dealing with bottle-fed babies.

**Premature births.** The instructions laid down in Ministry of Health Circular 20/44 dealing with the care of premature infants, continue to be carried out as in the previous year. Routine notification by midwives and doctors enabled the health visitors to pay frequent visits and keep these infants under careful supervision. Of the 114 premature babies born during the year, 41 occurred in their own homes and 73 in hospital. Twenty-eight of those born at home and 35 of those born in hospital survived at the end of one month.

**Infant Life Protection.** The health visitors are all officially appointed Infant Life Protection Visitors for the purposes of this Act. Regular visits are paid to the various homes where the children are boarded out and the foster mothers concerned are all registered as such with the local authority. No foster mother has been registered where the home conditions were found on inspection to be not up to standard. At the end of the year, the number of foster mothers on the register was 36 and the number of children in the care of these foster mothers was 41.

**Home Helps.** The services of one full-time home help were available throughout the year, and she attended 13 cases. The average attendance per case was for 14 days, and the average charge made to the mothers was £1 7s. 11d. per week. Endeavours were made to strengthen the service, and two more full-time home helps took up their duties on 31/12/45.

**Domestic Helps.** Arrangements were in hand at the close of the year, for this service to be provided through the agency of the Women's Voluntary Services. A scheme was drawn up and submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval.

## NURSING HOMES.

There are at the present time 13 homes registered with the local authority, providing bed accommodation for 49 maternity patients and 73 others, a total of 122 beds. All the homes were visited and inspected during the year and were found to be carried on in a satisfactory manner. Two new homes were registered during the year.



## WAR-TIME DAY NURSERIES.

The war-time day nurseries situated in all parts of the town continued to be well attended throughout the year, as will be seen from the following return :—

### WARTIME NURSERIES. AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCES OF CHILDREN DURING THE YEAR, 1945.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
<b>Whole-Time-</b> (0-5 years)													
Holybrook House	42	33	32	27	28	31	34	34	30	26	32	33	382
74, Bulmershe Road	18	21	24	16	23	25	23	23	26	23	23	23	268
74, London Road	26	31	28	28	27	28	24	24	25	26	24	24	315
11, Victoria Square	32	44	40	45	28	51	47	52	41	46	47	35	508
Norcot Nursery	32	32	28	34	33	30	25	26	34	36	30	30	370
Blagrave Nursery	12	19	21	18	14	24	17	17	16	15	16	15	204
Caversham Nursery	29	29	30	24	32	20	28	34	39	29	30	31	355
Whitley Park Nursery	32	29	25	30	33	28	29	22	33	39	40	36	376
Totals	223	238	228	222	218	237	227	232	244	240	242	227	2778
<b>Part-Time-</b> (2-5 years)													
Bridge Street ..	25	27	31	27	17	30	26	18	20	19	21	20	281
Denmark Hall ..	13	15	14	15	11	16	15	10	13	15	11	11	159
Torrington Road ..	20	20	19	15	25	22	16	26	27	31	32	27	280
Totals	58	62	64	57	53	68	57	54	60	65	64	58	720

## MENTAL WELFARE.

I am indebted to Dr. Wm. Ogden, the medical superintendent of the Berkshire mental hospital, for the following information :—

“ Number of admissions, discharges and deaths of patients chargeable to the county borough of Reading for the year ending 31st December, 1945 :—

	<i>Voluntary.</i>			<i>Temporary.</i>			<i>Certified.</i>			<i>Total.</i>		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Admissions ...	12	36	48	1	—	1	13	18	31	26	54	80
Discharges ...	9	19	28	—	—	—	4	7	11	13	26	39
Deaths ...	3	2	5	1	—	1	7	11	18	11	13	24

### *Out-patient clinic—Royal Berkshire Hospital.*

Number of new cases ...	...	...	197
Old cases carried forward ...	...	...	44
Cases ‘ followed-up ’ after discharge from hospital ...	...	...	17
Admitted to hospital ...	...	...	26
Total attendances ...	...	...	983

*Social Work Returns, for the period January 1st to December 31st, 1945.*

Social Histories ... ..	34
Visits for Discharge and on Trial ... ..	48
Follow-up and After-care Visits ... ..	101
Out-patient and Special Referral Visits and Reports ... ..	63
Contacts with other social organisations on behalf of patients ... ..	74
Interviews and visits to relatives ... ..	73

*Mental Deficiency*—Accommodation. The number of patients accommodated in Borocourt during the year was 100, of whom 50 were males and 50 females. Three males and one female were accommodated in other mental institutions. The shortage of accommodation for cases urgently in need of institutional care continues and is aggravated by lack of nursing staff.

**Occupation Centre.** I am indebted to Miss E. M. Barkas, supervisor of the occupation centre at Watlington house, for the following account of the past year's work :—

"The classes are held daily during the school term from Mondays till Fridays.

*Numbers attending.* The number of defectives on the register are as follows :

	Males	Females
Full-time	15	29
Part-time	5	4
	—	—
	20	33
	—	—
		53

*The staff includes :* Supervisor  
 Assistant supervisor  
 2 guide assistants  
 1 male instructor for shoe repairing  
 (2 afternoons a week)  
 1 male instructor for woodwork  
 (1 afternoon weekly)

*Use of school medical service.* For sometime the centre has been fortunate in having the services of the school medical service both for dental and other necessary treatments. Beginning next term the school medical officer has kindly consented to arrange for visits to the centre once at the beginning of each term and again during the term for the purpose of inspecting the children's physical condition.

*Transport.* Bus tickets are given to the defectives who are able to come alone to the centre.

The centre has the use of the special school bus to collect defectives from the Whitley district. A guide assistant is in attendance on this bus. Our other guide assistant is able to bring a limited number of low-grade defectives, at present by means of the general bus service.

*Meals.* A mid-day meal is served to all defectives attending the centre from Tuesdays till Fridays, by means of the school meals' service. The



defectives pay 4d. per day towards the cost. In cases of extreme hardship the meals are given free.

The centre is also able to obtain milk under the milk for schools scheme.

*Curriculum.* The defectives are taught needlework, knitting, rug-making and raffia work. Simple domestic duties, e.g. scrubbing, washing up crockery and polishing. The boys have shoe repairing and woodwork classes.

The '3 R's' are taught to a few children who are likely to benefit.

Sense training apparatus is provided for young low-grade children.

Physical training including folk dancing and singing games form part of the training."

## WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

I am indebted to the secretary of the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind, who acts for the Corporation in this matter, for the following account of the work performed during the year :—

"At 31st December, 1945, there were 183 blind people on the register of the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind. These consisted of 74 males and 109 females. During the year from 1st January, when there were 178 on the register, there were 11 deaths, 19 new cases, 9 transfers into other areas, 7 transfers into the borough from other areas, and 1 case de-certified.

*Home workers.* Throughout the year there were seven home workers, five men and two women. The men were employed as basket makers (two), piano tuners (two), and one boot repairer. The women consisted of one machine knitter and one hand knitter. At the same time, four young people were completing their training: one as a telephonist, one as a machine knitter, one as a piano tuner and one as a shorthand typist. The earnings of the home workers varied according to their output, and materials were still hard to obtain owing to war conditions. The highest earnings of a home worker in one month were £6 10s. 0d., the lowest 4/6d. To their earnings each home worker received an augmentation of 15/- per week.

*Domiciliary assistance.* 108 unemployable blind cases received domiciliary assistance during the year. This was usually taken to them by one of the Association's visitors, but several were able to call in regularly at the headquarters in Minster Street.

*Reading Pension Fund.* The Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind acts as almoners for this fund, and £81 10s. 0d. was paid out in pensions during the year. In addition £150 was spent on providing coal for the blind during the winter months.

*Pastime classes.* These were held every Monday and Thursday, and an average of 17 came along each week to practise stool-seating, knitting, string-bag and rug-making, some basket work and straw bag making.

*Sweet Pea Day.* This was held on May 6th, and was unfortunately a very wet day. In spite of this £256 15s. 4d. was raised, and the Association is much indebted to all the kind friends who helped so conscientiously. Three band concerts, held through kind permission of the Watch committee, in the Forbury Gardens during the summer months, produced a further £45 10s. 5d., and to the bandsmen and the collectors the Association is most grateful.

*Concerts, outings etc.* On 3rd Jan., a party was held at Messrs. McIlroy's Ltd., through kind permission of Mr. W. E. McIlroy, C.B.E.,



J.P., who was, however, not able to be present. Lady Abram acted as hostess, and there were well over a hundred guests. The programme consisted of tea and concert, and was much enjoyed.

The Reading Symphony Orchestra gave free invitations to any blind people who liked to attend a concert at the Town Hall, and this was much appreciated by those who could go.

The Elm Park Hall Sisterhood invited a number of blind to a tea-party at their hall in the New Year, and full advantage was taken of this opportunity of meeting others.

In August a coachful of those blind people who attended the Pastime class went by Thames Valley Coach to Windsor, where they spent a pleasant afternoon, having tea at a cafe, and then walking about the precincts of the Castle, and down by the river.

*Transport passes and cinema passes.* These are issued free to registered blind people and our thanks are due to the transport department and to those cinemas which have allowed the blind people the privilege of attending a show once or twice per week, accompanied by a guide.

*Wirelesses.* These are provided free to the blind, through the generosity of the British Wireless for the Blind Fund, and the upkeep of the sets is borne by the Association. This is probably the greatest benefit which the blind enjoy."

**Report of Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon.** I am indebted to Mr. E. A. Dorrell, F.R.C.S., for the following information :—

"During 1945, 20 cases were examined for admission to the Blind register, and two were re-examined. Of the 22 cases examined, 16 were found to be blind within the meaning of the Act; five were not and one was de-certified as a result of cataract extraction.

Disease.	Blind.	Not Blind.	De-certified.	Total.
Cataract	5	3	1	9
Glaucoma	2	—	—	2
Myopia	1	—	—	1
Optic atrophy	1	—	—	1
Retinal and Choroidal conditions	5	2	—	7
Infections	2	—	—	2
	16	5	1	22

All five cases of cataract certified blind were unsuitable for operation.

One of the two cases of glaucoma did not seek advice early enough.

Of the retinal and choroidal conditions one patient showed bilateral embolism of the central retinal artery following phlebitis, two were suffering from senile degeneration of the retina, one was a case of retinitis pigmentosa and the remaining one had a detached retina in one eye and a secondary cataract in the other.

The one patient under the heading of optic atrophy was suffering from secondary optic atrophy following acute retrobulbar optic neuritis while in hospital under treatment for phthisis."

### CREMATION.

The Medical Officer of Health is the medical referee to the Reading Crematorium and issues the necessary authority to cremate. During the year under review 378 cremations were carried out.

## CIVIL DEFENCE CASUALTY SERVICES.

At the beginning of the year there were the following establishments manned either continually or on an on-call basis :—

Battle Hospital First-Aid Post.  
 Tilehurst First-Aid Post (entirely voluntary).  
 Mobile Units Depot (Silver Street).  
 2 Public Gas Cleansing Stations.  
 1 Mobile Gas Cleansing Unit.  
 1 Ambulance Depot.  
 1 Mortuary.

All these establishments were closed on the 30th June, 1945. There were no incidents in the Borough during 1945.

## EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

I am indebted to Dr. P. Kidd for the following record of the work carried out in the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Berkshire hospital, by arrangement with the Reading Corporation, for the year ended 31st December, 1945 :—

“ This report covers the first year during which certain types of public health specimens were sent from the County Borough of Reading to the Medical Research Council Emergency Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Berkshire hospital.

The total number and description of the specimens examined were as follows :—

Nose and Throat Swabs	Sputum	Pus.	Faeces	Gastric Lavages	Pleural Fluids	Vaginal and Cervical Swabs	Ice Cream Plate Counts	Eye Swabs
1368	4	3	22	45	5	4	4	2

Total .. .. 1457

*Diphtheria.* C. Diphtheria was isolated from 73 patients in the county borough. The types were as follows :—

Gravis	...	...	45
Intermedius	...	...	6
Mitis	...	...	14
Not typed	...	...	8

—  
73  
—

During May contacts of two cases of gravis type at St. Joseph's Convent were swabbed and a throat carrier found who had been in intimate contact with the two cases five days beforehand. Combined active and passive immunisation was given to all boarders, and a refresher dose of A.P.T. offered to those day girls who had been previously immunised. No further cases occurred. The carrier subsequently underwent an operation for tonsillectomy to terminate her carrier condition.

*Intestinal Infections.* It is seen from the figures for the total number of specimens examined that full use was not being made by local practitioners of the facilities for the diagnosis of diarrhoeal diseases.

In March, *Shigella Sonnei* was isolated from ten children and three members of the nursing staff at the Battle hospital. During the year seven additional cases of Sonne dysentery were diagnosed, two cases of Flexner infection, two cases of Paratyphoid B, and one of infection with *Salmonella Anatum*.

*Tuberculosis.* Routine sputum examinations are still being carried out at the Tuberculosis Dispensary. Certain special examinations for tubercle bacilli were however carried out in the Medical Research Council laboratory.

Gastric contents from forty-five patients were examined by culture and guinea pig inoculation and twenty-six proved positive by one or both methods."

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## CONCLUSION.

I wish to express my appreciation of the constant interest and encouragement of the members of the Council in the work of the department. The staff have continued their endeavours to sustain and expand all the services provided and I am indebted to them for many suggestions for improvements and modernisations.





COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1945.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
OLD COLLEGE BUILDINGS,  
ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCHYARD,  
READING,

*July, 1946.*

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the annual report on the work of the School Medical Service for the year 1945. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry this is again abridged and mainly factual.

It is an important year in the history of the School Medical Service. On April 1st the provisions of the Education Act, 1944, became effective, giving wide medical powers and duties to Education Authorities. Following the suggestions of Circular 29 of the Ministry of Education, it was resolved that developments in Reading should be linked with treatment facilities already available in the borough. Representatives accordingly attended in July a regional meeting of Education and Hospital Authorities and accepted a proposal that there should be a uniform arrangement applicable to the region as a whole. The details of such an arrangement were to await discussion at a National level. These were still awaited at the close of the year.

In the main, Reading had already provided the facilities outlined by the Minister in Circular 29, and had concluded arrangements for special treatment with appropriate hospitals. The main question at issue was, and is, the extent of the liability of Education Authorities under the new Act. The relevant section may be interpreted to extend responsibility for all children on the register of maintained schools, who receive medical treatment outside their homes. Clearly, the need to define responsibility will largely disappear with the inception of a National Health Service Scheme. The timing of the Education and National Health Services Acts has been unfortunate. The recognition of the necessity for arrangements by Education Authorities to be provisional only, and the advantages of postponement have, therefore, added to the unavoidable restraints imposed by war and post-war stringencies.

In Reading the practical effects of the new legislation have been, so far, to make all forms of treatment through the School Medical Service, free of direct charge to the parents concerned.

**Estimated School Population.**

The numbers on the school register—1945	...	14,197
1938	...	12,253



## SCHOOL HYGIENE.

The conditions and shortcomings inseparable from war continued and the maintenance of previous standards remained the practical endeavour. The normal steady raising of the level of school hygiene is perforce postponed, but the new suggested building standards defined by the Ministry of Education are hopeful and ambitious targets for the future.

### ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

The customary method was continued and arrears are slowly being overcome by the additional employment of a part-time medical officer for this work.

The following figures give the number of children examined in each age group :—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	1,887
Intermediates		...	...	...	1,574
Leavers	...	...	...	...	1,214
					<hr/>
			Total	...	4,675
Other ages		...	...	...	21
					<hr/>
			Grand Total		4,696
					<hr/>
Re-examinations	...		...	...	1,224

### SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS.

Any child reported as possibly in need of advice or treatment is seen by a school doctor at one of the special sessions held at the various clinics throughout the town.

Number of special cases seen	...	3,078
Total examinations performed	...	10,171

### NUTRITION.

Year	No. of children inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly sub-normal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1938	4,106	630	15.3	3,202	78.0	273	6.6	1	.02
1944	3,795	889	23.4	2,745	72.3	161	4.2	—	—
1945	4,696	1,743	37.1	2,737	58.3	216	4.0	—	—

As on previous occasions, variations in these findings depend, to a considerable extent, on the standards of assessment of the doctor conducting the survey. Children in the sub-normal group are kept under observation and weighed at regular intervals. Their parents are interviewed and the importance of rest emphasised. It is easier to arrange to supplement the children's dietaries than to ensure that they are put to bed sufficiently early to allow an adequate's night's rest.

All children under five years of age in attendance at schools are given orange juice and cod-liver oil daily.

### SCHOOL MILK.

The average number of children receiving milk was 10,193, 80 per cent of those in attendance.

### SCHOOL MEALS.

I am indebted to the School Meals' Organiser for the following information :—

The number of meals served was 522,988. These include free meals children, staff, nurseries, children's homes, occupation centre and Leighton Park school. The approximate number of free meals was 64,376.

#### *Special Foods.*

A regular allocation was made of skimmed spray milk powder and orange juice jelly to all schools. The tart flavour of the latter product caused some initial difficulties, but with familiarity, the jelly is now very popular.

### VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(1)	Average number of visits per school made during the year by the school nurses	...	...	6
(2)	Total number of examinations of children in the schools by the school nurses...	...	...	33,274
(3)	Number of individual children found unclean	...		1,276
(4)	Number of individual children cleansed under Section 54 of the Education Act, 1944	...		11
(5)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken	...	...	Nil

### RINGWORM.

This condition continued to give concern.

New cases detected	...	...	199 (1944—91)
Discharged cured	...	...	97
Total attendances at special clinic			10,472

A circular letter was sent to all medical practitioners in the borough, which explains the position—an extract is given as follows :—

“ To deal with the considerable increase in the number of cases of ringworm of the scalp, the Corporation have improved the facilities available through the School Medical Service :—

- (a) By installing a Wood's diagnostic lamp.
- (b) By engaging additional nursing staff for clinic treatment.
- (c) By arranging for the culture and identification of ringworm fungi.
- (d) By the provision of X-ray therapy at University College hospital.

(X-ray treatment could not be obtained in Reading).

Unfortunately, the cure of ringworm can be difficult and protracted. Our experience has confirmed the advice of the dermatologist that cure cannot normally be certified with accuracy without the aid of the Wood's lamp. The Education Committee has therefore resolved that cases of ringworm shall be excluded from school until certified cured by the school medical officer. I should be obliged, therefore, if, when you have a case of ringworm in a Reading school child, which you consider cured, you would send the child to the school clinic, Queen's road, on Thursday, at 3.30 p.m. for a re-admission certificate.

Cases which you would prefer to send for treatment to the clinic should be instructed to attend on Thursdays at 2 p.m.

Treatment, including X-ray therapy, is free of cost, but limited to those attending schools maintained by the Reading Corporation.

Although there is little effect on general health, the school time lost through ringworm is very considerable, and I shall be grateful for your assistance in stamping out this infection.”

The school nurses examine the heads of every child in the Reading schools once in each term. All contacts, in particular family contacts, of every case are “ followed-up.”

### SCABIES.

Cases treated at the school clinic      290    (1944—571)

This conforms with the observation of the reduction of the incidence of scabies throughout the population in general.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of scarlet fever was markedly reduced.

A measles epidemic caused considerable loss of school time but the cases were mainly mild in character. The incidence of diphtheria showed a marked reduction. There were two deaths from this cause in the school population.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Efforts were made during the year to increase the number of immunised children. Forms were issued to every school child asking for the parent's consent to inoculation. All those not responding were specially visited. This personal appeal was supplemented by press and poster advertising.

The number of sessions held for immunisation was    78

„       „       „ children immunised of school age 1,019

The estimated percentage of school children known to have been immunised by December, 1945 was 70.



## SPEECH THERAPY.

The resignation of the part-time speech therapist gave the opportunity to endeavour to fulfil the suggestion of the Ministry of Education and engage a full-time therapist. No qualified applicants were forthcoming, and all that could be arranged was the attendance for four sessions a week of a temporary part-time officer. Efforts to fill the vacancy were not successful during the year under review.

## PHYSICAL TRAINING.

I am indebted to the Organiser of Physical Training for the following report :—

“ Having regard to the conditions prevailing in the schools from 1940-45, the standard of physical training and organised games, whilst falling below that attained in pre-war years, has been of such a nature as to create in the scholars an appreciation of physical fitness.

The main difficulties which had to be contended with during the period were :—

- (1) The shortage of men, and particularly the younger men due to their call to another sphere.
- (2) Accommodation, due to the influx of evacuees and the consequent sharing of schools by Reading and London children.
- (3) The scarcity of games' apparatus and particularly rubber balls for the minor games.
- (4) The lack of footwear and gymnastic clothing.
- (5) The cutting down in some schools of the number of periods allocated to the work due to (1) and (2) above.
- (6) The absence of staff classes due solely to war-time conditions.
- (7) The lack of a woman organiser.

Considerable use has been made of the existing playing facilities in the various parks and recreation grounds and in the Palmer field provided by the Education Committee.

The national games of hockey, netball, football, cricket, stoolball and rounders have provided recreative exercise for the scholars during a difficult time, a fact which they have duly appreciated.

Much use has been made during the war years of the accommodation provided for the schools in the Corporation swimming baths.

Fortunately, the woman instructor, Miss G. Francis, has been available during the whole of the war years and consequently the instruction of the girls has presented little difficulty.”

## BLIND AND DEAF PUPILS.

	1 At a maintained Primary or Secondary School	2 At an institution other than a Special School	3 At no School or Institution
Blind Pupils	—	—	1
Deaf Pupils	—	—	2

## EAR, NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC.

The ear, nose and throat clinic is held on Wednesday mornings at the school clinic, Queen's road, by the assistant school medical officer.

Total number of children attending			
during 1945	...	...	113
Number of new cases	...	...	86

<i>New cases classified.</i>	<i>Discharged.</i>	<i>Still Attending</i>
Ear-ache ... ..	7	2
Wax in ear ... ..	15	—
Inflamed external meatus or furunculosis	7	1
External otitis ... ..	2	—
Deafness (not due to wax) ...	3	5
Otorrhoea ... ..	15	9
Tonsils and adenoids ... ..	8	1
Catarrh ... ..	8	2
Foreign body in ear ... ..	1	—
Number of cases referred to the hospital for—		
tonsillectomy ... ..	...	16
on account of otorrhoea ...	...	1
for other reasons (sinusitis) ...	...	1

<i>Old cases classified</i>	<i>Discharged.</i>	<i>Still Attending</i>
Wax ... ..	2	—
Inflamed external meatus or furunculosis	1	1
Deafness (not due to wax) ...	—	2
Otorrhoea ... ..	2	7
Catarrh ... ..	1	1
Number of cases referred to the hospital for—		
tonsillectomy ... ..	...	1
on account of otorrhoea ...	...	3

Three hundred and fifty-nine children were referred to the special clinics from the routine medical inspections for observation.

The practice of the school medical service is to keep all cases

of enlarged tonsils and adenoids under observation and treatment. Removal by operation is only suggested when it is obvious that the child's health is deteriorating through this defect.

**TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF  
NOSE AND THROAT.**

Received Operative Treatment ..	525
Received other forms of Treatment	74
	<hr/> 599

**TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION  
AND SQUINT.**

Errors of refraction (including squint) .. ..	654
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those re- corded in Group I) .. .. .	44
	<hr/> Total 698
No of Pupils for whom spectacles were—	
(a) Prescribed .. .. .	514
(b) Obtained .. .. .	438

**TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS (excluding  
uncleanliness).**

Total number of defects treated or under treatment during the year, under the Authority's scheme—3182.

**ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.**

The number of children noted as suffering from these defects at routine medical inspection was 403. Minor defects are treated by appropriate advice to parents on general health and special remedial exercises. Other cases are referred to the orthopaedic clinic at the Royal Berkshire hospital.



## CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC.

The following is a copy of a report received from the child guidance clinic :—

“ There has been an increase in the number of new cases referred for the year January 1945-January 1946. The number of Reading Borough cases referred during the years 1943-1945, respectively, are 55, 81 and 92.

No. of cases brought forward from December 1944	42
No. of new cases referred	92
<hr/>	
Total No. of cases on books	134
<hr/>	
No. of cases treated and closed	41
Adjusted	7
Improved	23
No change	1
Prematurely closed through lack of co-operation or transfer to other districts—	10
No. of attendances—	
For consultation	85
Intelligence test only	6
Psychiatric interview only	1
Treatment, including remedial coaching	901
<hr/>	
	993
<hr/>	

The continuation of the Reading Borough Evacuation Hostels is still under consideration. It has been recommended that two Reading Borough Hostels should be retained for the residential treatment of maladjusted and difficult children. More Reading Borough children have been admitted for treatment in the Evacuation Hostels, as evacuees have returned. Fourteen Reading Borough children were admitted during this year and five discharged as sufficiently adjusted to return home. Four Reading children are still waiting for Hostel vacancies.”

The Child Guidance Hostels received a monthly routine visit by a medical officer and other times as necessity arose through illness.

*Child delinquency.* At the routine medical inspections the behaviour of each child is now noted on the record cards.

Children who appear to have behaviour difficulties are seen at a special clinic to which the parent is invited to attend. Some of these are kept under observation but many are referred to the Child Guidance Clinic.

## MINOR AILMENTS CLINICS.

Experience from the clinic established at Grovelands First Aid Post indicated the advantages of serving a small group of schools from a nearby clinic. The committee agreed to the establishment of two new minor ailment clinics at Grovelands and Battle schools. These operate each morning, and are staffed by a school nurse and clinic attendant. A school doctor attends on one morning each week.

Head teachers have expressed their appreciation of the improvement in the children and the school time saved by this de-centralisation.

Attendances at minor ailments clinics were as follows :—

Queen's Road	...	...	...	4,619
Whitley	...	...	...	10,923
Grovelands	...	...	...	10,401
Battle	...	...	...	6,195

Approval was given to the establishment of another clinic at Caversham, but the buildings were awaiting adaptation at the close of the year.

## REMAND HOMES.

Elm Lodge and 6, Brownlow Road were visited once a month by a medical officer.

All children sent into the above homes were examined within 24 hours of admission.

Cases examined for freedom from infection were 74 boys and 4 girls, and cases examined prior to admission for approved schools were 18 boys and 2 girls.

## SICK BAY.

The committee gave special consideration to the post-war continuation of this establishment and resolved that while it was not entirely appropriate in its present form, there was a permanent need for a small sick-bay and hostel as complementary to the open-air school. It was agreed to recommend that the building at Whitley Rise should be used in this capacity as a short-term measure, pending the erection of a new open-air school.

The number of children admitted during the year was 215.

## WHITLEY SPECIAL SCHOOL.

I am indebted to the acting Head Teacher for the following report :—

	Educationally Sub-normal		Physically handicapped		Open-air	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
On the roll, January, 1945	42	26	34	10	21	27
Admitted during year ..	12	2	8	7	11	18
Left during year .. ..	10	4	8	2	11	17
On roll December, 1945 ..	44	24	34	15	21	28

“ During November, the school suffered a grievous loss by the death of the headmaster, Mr. B. J. Stammers.

The year's work in each department was carried on in much the same manner as in the previous war years.

The school medical officer and the tuberculosis officer visited the School on alternate weeks, each child being examined at least twice during the year.

Towards the end of 1945 the woodwork instructor was released from the R.A.F., so the workshop once more became available for the senior boys of each of the three departments.

Boot-repairing is still a valuable craft—senior boys of the educationally sub-normal and physically handicapped departments, under the instructor, repair the boots and shoes of many necessitous children at the bare cost of the materials.

Children from each of the three departments who require it, have cod-liver oil and malt each day. In the educationally sub-normal and physically handicapped departments milk or cocoa is provided each day in addition to their mid-day meal.

After dinner, each child in the open-air and physically handicapped departments has a mid-day rest.

In the open-air departments charts of temperature, height and weight are kept of all the children. Breakfast, dinner, tea and a pint of Grade A milk are provided daily for each child. Of the twenty-eight children who left the open-air school during the year, seventeen returned to the ordinary schools.

Fifty-nine children have attended the physically handicapped department in 1945. Their disabilities were :—

Heart disease, 8 ; paralysis, 16 ; tuberculosis (osseous), 5 ; amputations, 2 ; epilepsy, 7 ; fragilitis (ossium), 1 ; osteomyelitis, 2 ; other defects, 16 ; deaf, 1 ; deaf and dumb, 1.

Seventeen of the children have been in attendance as out-patients at the Royal Berkshire hospital. One visits Wingfield. One goes to Alton. Eleven have attended the tuberculosis dispensary.



## EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

138 children were examined for certificates of fitness for employment.

## CO-ORDINATION.

Every endeavour is made to integrate the school medical with other health services.

Clearly the child must be regarded in relation to his family background, his previous medical history and his future place in the extra-scholastic world. While the transfer of records is important, and is observed, there is a paramount need for personal contact between all concerned in this work. It is, in my view, a fundamental necessity to keep this basic need in mind when the extension or re-shaping of the service is under review. The fostering of a team spirit forms an essential part of the work of the school medical officer.

## DENTAL REPORT.

The dental service was again disrupted by staffing difficulties. A second temporary school dentist was available, to fill the place of the dental officer on war service, for only a part of the year.

The permanent dental officer who was working throughout the year makes the following interesting observations:—

“You will notice that we have inspected 5447 children at schools this year as against 3278 last year. The specials (which include casals) have dropped from 1694 to 1258. This is all to the good.

Of course, for some time yet, individual children who are inspected present mouths that need a great deal of attention, so that it takes a greater number of appointments to complete any one case. In fact, one has to put off a certain amount of work in order to be able to proceed with cases needing attention. But this state of affairs should slowly alter as more and more children are found not to require so much work to be done. I am also pleased to report that a very considerable number of parents who have hitherto been persistent refusers have learned the wisdom of accepting treatment. The actual acceptance rate from school inspections is still very low. The figure 5257 in Table IV. includes the ‘specials,’ of whom practically all require treatment and accept as they attend for pain, so that, when one subtracts most of these from this figure one arrives at the acceptance number of those inspected at school which would work out just over 40 per cent.”

The committee agreed to the re-opening of the dental surgery at Whitley, but no dental staff was available for this purpose during the year under review.

A new dental anaesthetic apparatus was obtained and regular dental anaesthetic sessions carried out by a visiting anaesthetist.

On this the dental officer reports :—

“The valuable assistance of the anaesthetist, Dr. Hill, has helped in cleaning many mouths of gross sepsis and in this way the list of casualties gradually abates.”

Figures relating to children treated are as follows :—  
Number of children who were :—

1. (a) Inspected age 3 ...	...	...	21	
4 ...	...	...	151	
5 ...	...	...	417	
6 ...	...	...	526	
7 ...	...	...	587	
8 ...	...	...	541	
9 ...	...	...	510	
10 ...	...	...	526	
11 ...	...	...	542	
12 ...	...	...	601	
13 ...	...	...	608	
14 ...	...	...	338	
15 ...	...	...	67	
16 ...	...	...	12	
Total			5447	
Specials			1258	
Grand total			6705	
(b) Found to require treatment ...			5257	
(c) Actually treated ...	...	...	2865	
2. Half days devoted to Inspection			38	} 734
Treatment			696	
3. Attendances for treatment ...			6410	
4. Fillings — Permanent ...	...	...	3140	} 3483
Temporary ...	...	...	343	
5. Extractions — Permanent ...	...	...	944	} 5063
Temporary ...	...	...	4119	
6. General anaesthetics ...	...	...	839	
7. Other operations — Permanent			1006	} 1450
Temporary			444	

### CONCLUSION.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the Committee for their unfailing interest and constant encouragement.

The members of the staff have been assiduous in their work and anxious always for the better welfare of the children. My special thanks are due to the Acting Senior Assistant School Medical Officer for her untiring efforts and support throughout the year, and for much of the factual material for this report.





